



Saturday, July 13

Planet Walk

South Rim Visitor Center
10:00 - 11:00 am

Viewing the Sun

South Rim Visitor Center
1:30 - 3:00 pm

Learn the Sky Workshop

South Rim Visitor Center
3:00 - 4:00 pm

Mars in 2013

South Rim Amphitheater, 9:00 pm

The planet Mars has long captured our interest partly because of its huge features like Olympus Mons, the highest mountains in the solar system, or Valles Marineris, a 3,000 mile canyon that dwarfs Grand Canyon. Join Black Canyon Astronomical Society Member Art Trevena for a look at Mars as well as what NASA's new Mars probe *Curiosity* has found this past year. Followed by Night Sky Viewing.

Things to Bring

Dress for day programs is typical for Colorado. Bring water, sunscreen, and hat. Evenings are chilly, dress accordingly. At night, bring binoculars, lawn chair for star gazing, flash light with red filter.

Black Canyon Astronomical Society

Be involved. The Society is very active in the enjoyment, education, and encouragement to preserve dark skies. Their assistance at the festival and throughout the year at Black Canyon is far-reaching. Visit their website at www.blackcanyonastronomy.com

Want to Learn More?

Here are several books found at the South Rim Visitor Center to help you further explore the night sky:

Stars Above, Earth Below, Tyler Nordgren
An indepth look at National Park night sky viewing from an astronomer who has observed the night sky in many parks.

Let There Be Night, Paul Bogard
Ideas and musings from astronomers and lay people about the values of night sky preservation.

National Geographic Backyard Guide to the Night Sky, Howard Schneider
A great beginner's guide packed with star charts. Also serves as a complete reference.

Black Canyon Astronomy Festival

July 10-13, 2013

Celebrating the starlit
skies of Western
Colorado

Daily Activity Descriptions

Viewing the Sun

Don't wait until dark to see a star. Get up close and personal with our local star to safely see sunspots and solar flares through our designated Hydrogen Alpha solar telescope.

Astro-kids Activities

Make moon craters, create solar art, make a solar bracelet, read with a ranger, and more. Join us for these fun activities for kids ages 6 and up to learn what astronomers do.

Planet Walk

Here's your chance to explore the planets! Meet at the South Rim Visitor Center to walk a scale model of our solar system. See how big outer space really is.

Learn the Sky Workshop

Learn beginner skills to use a star map (a planisphere) to get your start in astronomy. This hour long workshop shows you how the sky moves over the course of the night and throughout the seasons. You also get practice to identify celestial objects and constellations.

Night Sky Viewing

Experience the park's beautiful starry skies with the Black Canyon Astronomical Society. These skilled experts help you gaze through huge telescopes at planets, nebulae, star clusters, and galaxies. Be a "Dark Ranger" as you see constellations with a special astronomical laser, and learn the stories behind the stars during our constellation tours.

Wednesday, July 10

Astro-kids Activities

South Rim Visitor Center
10:00 - 11:00 am

Viewing the Sun

South Rim Visitor Center
1:30 - 3:00 pm

Astronomy Through Your Own Eyes

South Rim Amphitheater, 9:00 pm
The sky is filled with spectacular sights you can see with your own two eyes. Join Ranger Zach Schierl for a tour of the summer skies and learn why our night sky is being eroded faster than Black Canyon itself. Followed by Night Sky Viewing.

Thursday, July 11

Astro-kids Activities

South Rim Visitor Center
10:00 - 11:00 am

Viewing the Sun

South Rim Visitor Center
1:30 - 3:00 pm

Learn the Sky Workshop

South Rim Visitor Center
3:00 - 4:00 pm

Starry, Starry Night

South Rim Amphitheater, 8:30 pm
See how we can enjoy, understand, protect, and improve the clear, dark sky that we all share. Presented by Ranger Tom Wardlaw with Night Sky Viewing to follow.

Friday, July 12

Astro-kids Activities

South Rim Visitor Center
10:00 - 11:00 am

Viewing the Sun

South Rim Visitor Center
1:30 - 3:00 pm

Planet Walk

South Rim Visitor Center
2:00 - 3:00 pm

Learn the Sky Workshop

South Rim Visitor Center
3:00 - 4:00 pm

A Journey to the Ringed Planet

South Rim Amphitheater, 9:00 pm
Perhaps Saturn fires our imagination more than any other planet. Join Ranger Ali Barnes to experience an incredible journey to the 6th planet from the sun on the Cassini-Huygens spacecraft. Followed by Night Sky Viewing.